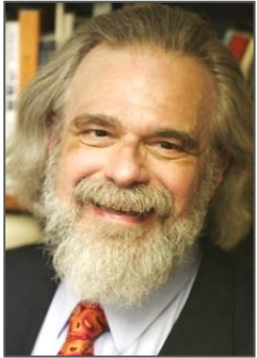




From the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Tony Johnson is serving as UCH Minister 2018-20.



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg wrapped up the formal church year with a well-attended Flower Festival on June 16. Now you are enjoying a summer of well-planned and thoughtful lay-led services on the theme of Summer of Love, and I am beginning a month of vacation.

I have just returned from the 58th General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Spokane, WA. Also

attending as lay delegates were Margaret Carrow and Gregory Boyd.

GA is preceded by gatherings of professional associations. I attended the second of the two Ministry Days of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA). It was good to reconnect with colleagues, some of whom I have known for decades and others whom I've only come to know more recently. The work of the business meeting addressed changes in UUMA guidelines regarding continuing education and how ministers can address ethical lapses by colleagues. Ministry Days closed with the 199th Berry Street Essay. The Rev. Leslie Takahashi addressed "Truth, Trauma, and Transformation: Embracing the Cracks and the Gold." This was a deeply moving essay with a theological frame. Rev. Takahashi went deep in her exploration of the personal and the institutional.

GA itself was shorter than usual and had as its theme, "The Power of We." One general session was led by the Commission on Institutional Change and had us break into small groups organized by various identities. (There were several I could have joined.) We discussed what sustains and limits us in the important work we are now doing to transform the UUA and what we expect of each other in living our covenantal relationships. The Commission will release a report on its work and the input of delegates and others.

Among the other highlights (for me) was the annual Conrad Wright Lecture. Dr. Kathryn Gin Lum of Stanford University spoke on the topic of her current research: *The Heathen World and America's Humanitarian Impulse*. She described how Christian America spoke of "heathens" at home and in mission fields. There were origin stories created by Europeans; landscapes were disorderly and the site of idolatry, in contrast to Christian lands; and heathen bodies were notable for the sexual behavior they embodied and premature death. The language of heathenism declined in the late 19th century and started to become an embarrassment to missionary efforts. Nevertheless, many of the attitudes that demeaned those labeled "heathen" have been adopted into secular discourse.

The most exciting workshop I attended was titled *Healing America's Largest Race Massacre Is Religious Work*. Presented by the Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, senior minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK, and several staff members, the workshop told us the story of the Greenwood Massacre of 1921 that destroyed what was then the most prosperous black community in the U.S. The leading lay founder of All Souls was one of the instigators of the massacre. Over the past half century, All Souls has become a center for racial justice and healing in the city of Tulsa. The presentation included the trailer of a soon-to-be released feature film, *American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel*, that features two progressive and inclusive churches in Oklahoma: All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa and Mayflower United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City.

There was much more to GA than these highlights. I learned much that will find its way into the preaching, pastoral, and organizational work during the coming church year.

Have a great Summer!

The Rev. Dr. Anthony P. Johnson

General Assembly

GA was held June 19-23 in Spokane, WA. Multiple articles are available online at [UU World](http://uuworld.org). Next year's GA will be held in Providence, RI.

Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Date	In the Pulpit	Title
7-Jul	Alicia Smith	Self-Love: Freedom to Be You
14-Jul	UCH Musicians	Summer of Love Sing-Out
21-Jul	John Hargreaves	Love Above Bars: Finding Love in Unlikely Places
28-Jul	Dan Vaughn	You're Going to Love Us: Why We Are What You've Been Looking For

President's Message



By David Spear, President, Board of Trustees

It's hard to believe that it has been an entire year since I was elected president of the church, and that this is already my twelfth column to the congregation. But the church year just ended on June 30, so that confirms it. Time flies!

It is a genuine pleasure to serve the congregation as your president, and it is

tremendously comforting to know that the congregation supports the work that the Board and I are doing. I also thank you for your involvement over the last year. You have attended more meetings and discussions than I can count!

At our Board meeting last Wednesday, one of us said, "if you had told me that we would be able to balance the budget, sell one of our buildings and make a small profit, and emerge as a unified congregation at peace with itself, I wouldn't have believed it." But somehow we did. It was a team effort, and the Congregational Life Team was especially instrumental in keeping everyone on track.

With all the work done this past year, I need to acknowledge that much of this was made possible by the work that was done the previous year. President Laura Edinger and that Board set much of this in place by pressing us to address the urgent financial situation. Without that year of hard work, the accomplishments from this year might not have been possible. We owe her our gratitude.

Salom House continues to move forward with their vision for the Market Street property. Construction is well underway on the first floor to prepare for Head Start (page 4). If you have driven down Market Street recently, perhaps you have seen the large sign out front. It shows the updated floor plans, and invites the community and investors to get involved. This is yet another indication that the work we started ten years ago will continue with the new owner.

Youth Musicians and Dancers

Do you have a talented kid or teen? Preludes for summer services are being filled by youth musicians and dancers. If you have somebody in your home that would like a performance opportunity, please contact Director of Music Yvonne DuVal.

Share the Plate: Joshua Group

Each month, we share half of our Sunday plate with a local non-profit organization. This month, we share the plate with the Joshua Group.

The Joshua Group is focused on the guidance of at-risk youth in the Allison Hill neighborhood, through mentoring and the shaping of positive role models. From the Joshua Learning Center on Market Street, it offers an array of "cradle-to-career" educational programs and services for more than 200 low-income children and families from the neighborhood. UCH member Meg Conners tutors at the Joshua Group, as does Merced Ramirez Saldana, our 2014 LaGrone Scholar.

As we move into the next church year, I am truly delighted that we find

ourselves in such a good situation. Our finances are stable. Much of the leadership will remain the same and the continuity will be helpful. The past year of working together has helped us find our voice and our direction and a comfort in working with each other.

Table with 2 columns: Date, Trustee. Rows: 7-Jul Guy Dannelley, 14-Jul Rima Cameron, 21-Jul Patti Hazell, 28-Jul Ed Sykes.

The members of the Board will remain the same. Seven of the nine members are in the middle of their three-year terms, and Guy and I were re-elected to additional three-year terms at the congregational meeting in May.

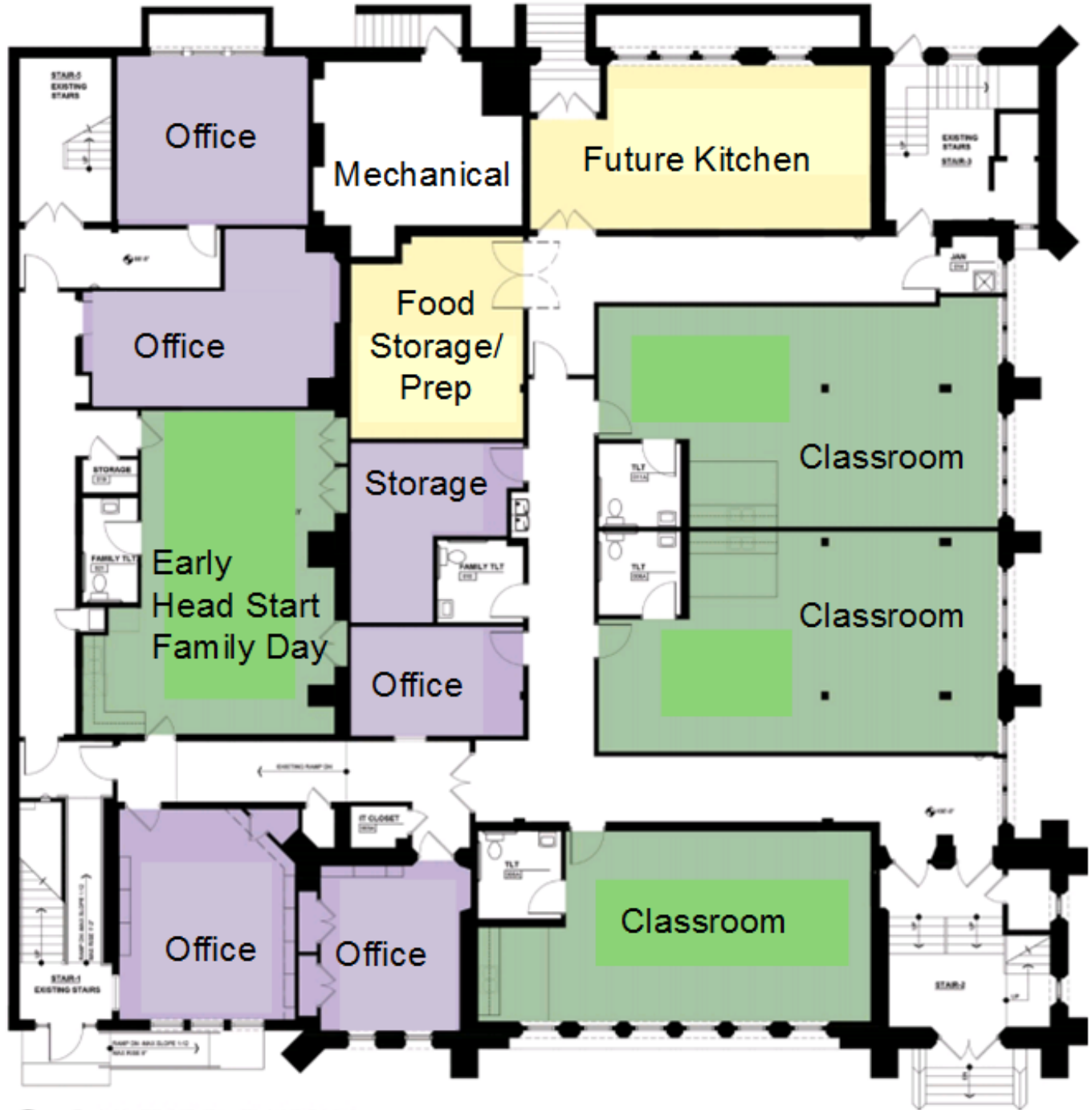
We also see signs that church members are becoming more involved in the life of the church. We see a burgeoning interest in participating and volunteering. We hear increasing optimism about the future of our beloved congregation.

As I promised, there will be no more meetings until September. Please take the summer months to rest, relax, and enjoy the fellowship of our community. Worship Team has prepared a full slate of lay-led services for the summer, so please join us every Sunday morning at 10:30. And remember that there is now air conditioning in the sanctuary!

I love the month-long "name amnesty" that Worship Team has declared. It's brilliant, and it frees me from the embarrassment of not knowing someone's name. Please join me in introducing ourselves to anyone we don't recognize or whose name eludes us. Maybe it's been too long since we have spoken to them anyway. Or maybe they are visitors that need welcoming. Or possibly they have been attending a different service. Whatever the reason, it's a good opportunity for us to strengthen our community and strengthen our bonds with others.

David Spear

The accompanying floorplan shows the planned layout for the first floor of our former Market Street campus.



1 LOWER LEVEL - FLOOR PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

CAPITAL AREA HEAD START
1508 MARKET STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17103

LEGEND

- HEAD START ADMINISTRATIVE
- HEAD START EDUCATIONAL
- SHALOM FOOD SERVICES

Religious Exploration Corner with DRE Sara Palmer



By Sara Palmer, Director of Religious Exploration

How do we best support kids, youth, and families in their faith formation as unapologetic UUs? That question comes up again and again in conversations I have with other RE professionals in the wider UU community. But it comes less frequently than you might think in individuals churches and fellowships, UCH included.

Unitarian Universalists, as a young denomination that's only existed since 1961, pride ourselves on flexibility of beliefs. We are not tied to a particular creed or dogma - you don't have to believe "these 24 things" in order to belong to a UU church. We do lift up our Seven Principles as ways of being better people. On a recent Facebook discussion a commenter named Jason Neakrase explained Unitarian Universalism to a curious person like this,

"UUs believe that what you believe about the Devine[sic] is far less important than how you choose to live your life while you are alive. We have these 7 principles that no sane person could reasonably disagree with and we trust God (or whatever) to sort the rest out."

I found this to be perhaps the best description of Unitarian Universalism I've come across. It's clear and concise. (And of course, like UUs, we're all entitled to our opinions about that...)

We come to UU spaces for many reasons. I've heard several families tell me they bring children and youth to churches like UCH to give them a sense of morality, fairness, justice, and love. I bring my own kiddo here for that reason. But we are not just a social organization. The YMCA/YWCA does that. So do scouting programs. So do many sports.

What we don't often name is that RE, Religious Exploration, is creating and nurturing Unitarian Universalists. In our journey towards personal and spiritual wholeness, we neglect to own that we are, indeed, Unitarian Universalists.

A Lutheran church doesn't demonstrate many different religions to kids and then send them off into the world to pick what suits them best. They are raising Lutherans. A Jewish synagogue creates and nurtures Jewish children. A Muslim mosque educates children about being Muslim. So why have Unitarian Universalists balked at naming themselves as Unitarian Universalists?

Think about that for a second. Do you consider yourself to be a UU, or do you attend a UU church? What about our children and youth? When grown-ups hold the label at a distance, can we really be surprised when 88% of our children and youth leave Unitarian Universalism after they finish high school? That is by far the lowest retention rate of any organized religion in the U.S.¹

If they don't see adults and peers claiming their faith with both hands and a full heart, to proudly proclaim "I am a Unitarian Universalist!", we are showing them that being a good person is different than being a Unitarian Universalist. Both are wonderful, but only one continues to ground them and give them a connection to others throughout their lives. Only one challenges them to rethink lifelong opinions. Only one teaches them to call others in to covenant when things are going wrong, to possibly be hurt, because the relationship at stake is worth it.

We have atheist UUs, agnostic UUs, Christian UUs, Jewish UUs, Hindu UUs, humanist UUs, Buddhist UUs, Unitarians, Universalists, UU UUs, and dozens more. Naming myself as a UU doesn't mean I can't be anything else. It's not either/or. It's Both/And.

So here's the question again:

How do we best support kids, youth, and families in their faith formation as unapologetic Unitarian Universalists?

What role can I serve, can specifically you serve, in that journey?

- ☉ It could mean taking a deeper look at my own beliefs and spirituality and having more conversations with other UUs and folks outside UCH. (Join a Covenant Group!)
- ☉ It could mean saying yes when RE folks ask for Sunday help to lead kids, mentor youth in Coming of Age, serve in the nursery, or work behind the scenes before or after service.
- ☉ It could mean reading up on Millennial and Generation Z trends and discussing how we can meet young adult, youth, and children's actual needs, which can be far different than the needs we had at their age.
- ☉ It could mean wearing your name tag and striking up a short conversation with someone new-to-you at coffee hour.

Being a Unitarian Universalist is hard. It's running a race where the finish line moves back at the same pace you move forward. Every time you think you've got it, there's something new to think about or try or adjust. But our faith calls us to stick together on that race, to slow down for the folks who need a little more time, and to love ourselves and each other the way they would like to be loved. The results are life-changing and arc-bending. Team UU can't succeed otherwise.

See you on the track.

¹Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, [The Problem of Retention in Unitarian Universalism](#) (undated).

Examining Whiteness: The Power of an Illusion

Since 2017, a lay-led group of UCH members and friends has been exploring [Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum](#) and developing thought-provoking synopses. This month's focus: *The Power of an Illusion*.

We can be caring and compassionate and not see the truth. We don't know what we don't know.

🎧 "Myth of Race Debunked in Three Minutes", Vox, ([3.07 min.](#))

– Submitted by Cordell Affeldt and Chris Dutton

Pridefest July 27

The UCH and the PA Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice (RCRJ) are sharing a table at PrideFest again this year, and we'll need people in 1-to-2 hour shifts from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please contact [Jim Cavanaugh](#) to sign up for a shift.

– Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

Covenant Groups Sign Ups!

Covenant Groups will meet the second Monday and Tuesday evenings and the second Wednesday morning starting in September. Members are asked to commit to the entire season of meetings.

SIGN UP Now for Covenant Groups using any of these options:

- 🎧 1. Send an email to Covenant@harrisburguu.org including your name, phone number, desired meeting date.
- 🎧 2. Call Joyce Stoltzfus @ 717-519-9322 or Sandy Hamstra @717-309-5357.
- 🎧 3. Go to [our website](#) and click on the link on the page for registration.
- 🎧 4. Sign up in person during coffee hour through August 4th.
- 🎧 Please sign up early to ensure placement in a specific group. To facilitate group process and individual growth, couples are encouraged, but not required, to sign up for different groups.

– Submitted by Sandy Hamstra

Membership News



Maggie Myers

Maggie Myers, daughter of UCH members Mike and Christy Myers, graduated from Cedar Cliff High School in June and will attend Dickinson College in the fall. She is the granddaughter of UCH members Skip Sink and Susan Jones Sink.

Barbara Van Horn





A traditional Barbara Van Horn birthday celebration was held on June 26 at Clover Lane, to celebrate 88 years of resistance, including 4 arrests. Her birthdays typically include a social justice action or event. This year, 30 people watched a double feature. *Moral and Safe? War, Peace, Drone Warfare and the Religious Community*, produced by the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare, describes the history, the nature, use and moral challenges posed by drone warfare. *Breaking Down the Box*, by the National Campaign Against Torture, is a 40-minute documentary that exposes the torture of solitary confinement in the context of mass incarceration in the U.S. These films were enlightening, frightening, and definitely better shared with friends. The intermission was happy with conversation, cake and ice cream. A free will offering of \$230 was collected for a Naed Smith memorial.

– Submitted by Rachel Mark








Ellen Peters (1952-2019)

Former UCH member Ellen Peters died May 31, 2019, in Harrisburg. Services were June 5. Ellen is survived by her husband of 44 years, Charles Peters, and one brother

Date	Time	Group	Location
Mon 1	6:30	Amrit Yoga (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end.</p> <p>No experience necessary! Contact Ed Sykes. Repeats every Monday.</p>			
Tue 2	6:45	Mindfulness Meditation Group (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Mindfulness is an acquired skill, practiced while meditating but vital in our everyday lives. Mindfulness is helpful in reducing stress, managing pain, focusing attention, and overcoming habitual negative behavior. Mindfulness can also point the way to spiritual practice, calming the mind and developing awareness and insight.</p> <p>The ability to be mindful is strengthened through consistent practice. Mindfulness Meditation Group provides a space for us to practice together in support of one another. Contact Chuck Daley. Repeats every Tuesday.</p>			
Sat 6	1:00	QueenSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, we meet on the first Saturday, in the afternoon. Come enjoy the adventures of a favorite heroine, Dorothy Gale² in the classic movie, <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>. All women, and those who gender-identify as women, are welcome.</p> <p>Please bring a favorite snack or beverage to share. All women, and those who gender-identify as women, are welcome. Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share. Contact Rebecca Waldamar for further information</p>			
Sun 7	9:30	Sunday Morning Forum (Weekly)	Clover Lane
<p>Facilitated by Fred Binkley, Barb Pearce, and others, the group meets for an hour of discussion on Sunday mornings at Clover Lane, with varying topics. During the summer, the group meets on an occasional basis – this month on the 7th and 14th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ July 7, "Is Racism About Hateful Actions or Words, Or Is There More?" led by Kate Quimby ☺ July 14, "What are the guiding principles for you as a progressive, liberal and/or conservative that distinguish you from the others? How do these principles relate to current events?" led by Fred Binkley and Max Maxwell <p>Please contact Barb Pearce for additional information.</p>			
Tue 9	6:30	Women's Night Out (Monthly)	Off-site
<p>Women's Night Out is a lay-led ministry that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We normally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at a local restaurant, alternating locations between the East and West Shores. Each month at dinner, participants take a collection. Proceeds are divided between the Ecumenical Food Pantry and UCH.</p> <p>Our group meets Tuesday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. Giotti's, 2308 Patton Road, in Harrisburg. Please RSVP to Chris Dutton or Diane Stables by the Sunday beforehand.</p>			
Sun 14	7:00	Philosophy and Literature Group (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, normally at 7:00 p.m. at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets to discuss <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i>, by Rebecca Solnit. From one online reviewer:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Brilliant book. It changed my perspective. It starts with an amusing story about mansplaining. Solnit then ties the dynamic behind mansplaining to a web of much more sinister problems including all angles of men exploiting women and nations exploiting each other. Contrary to critical reviews, the book is unified as the points relate to each other. Conservatives might not enjoy the book, but that is also not the point.</p> <p>Please contact Don Brown for information.</p>			

² Per [Fandom.com](#), Dorothy's last name isn't revealed in the original 1900 novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It was not mentioned until the 1902 stage version of the story Baum created after the book's publication and subsequent success; "My name is Dorothy Gale. I'm one of the Kansas Gales."

Date	Time	Group	Location
Tue 16	10:00	CroneSpirit (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>The lay-led ministry CroneSpirit meets from 10 a.m. - noon in Fuller Chapel at the Clover Lane campus on the third Tuesday of the month. Our topic this month is "Dealing with Pet Peeves." We are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members ☺ Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power ☺ For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum of 10 women ☺ Sharing, listening and learning, without gossip to or about each other <p>We look forward to seeing you. For information, please contact Joan Hellmann.</p>			
Wed 17	6:00	Clover Grove (Monthly)	Clover Lane
<p>Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists that meets on the third Wednesday, with a program that varies based on the cycle of seasons and forces of nature. It's summer time and the days are warm and beautiful. This month, we circle up and drum up some energy among like-minded friends.</p> <p>Join Clover Grove at 6:00 p.m. for a pot luck dinner and Drum Circle. If the weather is perfect, we will be outside and host a small campfire to enjoy the evening. If the weather is rainy, then we will host pot luck and drum inside.</p> <p>All are welcome. Please contact Wayne Minich for further information.</p>			
Sat 20	8:00	Adopt-A-Highway	Clover Lane
<p>The Adopt-a-Highway cadre is responsible for two miles of Lindle Road near the Clover Lane campus. Policing actions are held in the spring, summer, and fall. THIS IS THE DAY. Also note we meet at 8:00 a.m. to avoid the heat. PennDOT provides orange safety vests and highway warning signs that we use during litter pick-ups. It also provides trash bags and picks up the bagged litter from the roadside. Volunteers must be at least eight years old, and those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Clover Lane to start. Please contact John Hargreaves for information.</p>			
Tue 23	6:30	Auction Planning Committee	Clover Lane
<p>SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 2.</p> <p>THEME: Celebrating 50th anniversary of Woodstock, Peace, Love & Music.</p> <p>The Auction Planning Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Priestley Room, Clover Lane location. Come brainstorm ideas, themes, and be a part of the fun, food, & fabulous Auction Committee. Your talent and help planning the 2019 All-Church Auction is always welcome. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success, Please contact Patti Hazell to volunteer or for additional information.</p>			 

Looking Ahead:

- ☺ **Sept 21 Re-Entry Breakfast**
The lay-led ministry Helping People in Prison and their Families will be hosting the Community Connections Reentry breakfast on Saturday, Sept 21, and it will be a success because UCH members and friends pitch in to help cook, serve, and clean up. Save the date so we can show women and men from halfway houses and work release centers that we value and respect their inherent worth and dignity.